AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) In an Internet Protocol(IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected IP data switching systems, a method comprised of:

   a. receiving at a first IP data switching system a plurality of IP data packets;

   b. tabulating at said first IP data switching system at least the number of IP data packets received from a particular IP source address during a first time interval, thereby forming a count of IP data packets from a particular source;

   c. storing said count of IP data packets in a memory device for subsequent processing.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

   d. reading said count of IP data packets from said memory device;

   e. selectively discarding IP data packets received at said first IP data switching system that originated from said particular source.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said IP data switching system is an IP data router switching system.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of selectively discarding IP data packets includes the step of denying reception of IP data packets from a router based upon a source address in IP data packets upon the determination that the count of IP data packets from a source address exceeds a threshold value.

5. (original) In an Internet Protocol (IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected IP data switching systems, a method comprised of:

a. sending a plurality of IP data packets from a first IP data switching system to a second IP data switching system;

b. tabulating at said first IP data switching system at least the number of IP data packets sent to a particular IP destination address during a first time interval, thereby forming a count of IP data packets sent to a particular IP destination address;

c. storing said count of IP data, packets sent to a particular IP destination address in a memory device for subsequent processing.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 further including the steps of:

d. reading said count of IP data packets from said memory device;

e. selectively inhibiting the transmission of IP data packets from said first IP data switching system to said second IP data switching system when the number of IP packets from said first IP data switching system exceeds a predetermined number.

7. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second IP data switching systems is an IP data router switching system.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 6 wherein said step of selectively inhibiting the transmission of IP data packets includes the step of sending a message to a specific router to discard messages either received from or sent to a specific IP address.